

REMARKS

The application was filed with Claims 1-20. Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC §112. By the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-20 are cancelled and new Claims 21-44 are presented for examination. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been objected to. By the foregoing amendment, the Abstract and the Specification are amended.

Rejection under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In light of the foregoing amendment, wherein Claims 1-20 have been cancelled, this rejection should be considered moot, and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

In the Specification

The Abstract of the Disclosure stands objected to as containing the term "means." The Abstract has been amended to remove this term. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

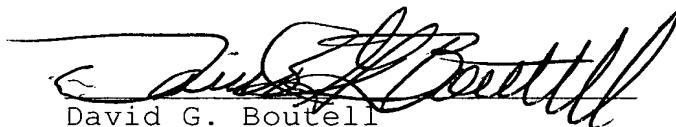
In the specification as filed, reference is made to determining the thickness of the snow by means of a resistance measurement of the snow between two electrodes. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the quantity being measured by the electrical resistance of the snow would be better technically described as density, rather than thickness. Further evidence that density is the quantity sought to be determined from the electrical resistance between the electrodes is found in paragraphs [0012], [0020] and [0034] and cancelled claims 5, 9 and 17, wherein "height" of the snow is placed alongside "thickness" as environmental parameters considered by the control system. This listing of alternative parameters supports the premise that "thickness" is not the appropriate term for the condition being measured.

Finally, in referring back to the German language priority document, we find that the term "Schneedichte" was inadvertently translated as "snow thickness," rather than the correct translation of "snow density." Accordingly, the specification has been amended to replace the term "thickness" with "density" where appropriate.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be moot. Examination of Claims 21-44 is respectfully requested. If necessary to expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representatives listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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